
Technology Vision

Brown University Library creates, develops, promotes, and uses technology to further the Library’s mission and strategic directions in accordance with the University’s Plan for Academic Enrichment (http://www.brown.edu/web/pae/complete.html).

Library Mission Statement:
The Brown University Library, in support of the University's educational and research mission, is the local repository for and the principal gateway to current information and the scholarly record. As such, it is simultaneously collection, connection, and classroom, primarily for the current and future students and faculty of the University, while also serving other colleagues in the University community and our regional, national, and global communities of learning and scholarship.

Library Strategic Directions:

• Expanding Collections and Access to Scholarly Resources
• Providing the Right Resources at the Right Time
• Promoting Information Technology and Digital Initiatives
• Providing Multiple Models of Service
• Developing and Using Cutting-Edge Research Tools
• Making Scholarly Contributions
• Transforming Library Facilities
• Positioning the Library at the Core of Teaching, Learning, and Research
• Aligning the Library with the Plan for Academic Enrichment
• Forging Partnerships Across Campus
• Reaching out to Donors
• Securing Administrative Support
• Working Together
GOALS:

The Brown University Library’s Mission and Strategic Directions serve as the framework for the goals set forth below.

GOAL I: SIMPLIFY USERS’ ABILITY TO DISCOVER AND NAVIGATE LIBRARY RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE A
IMPROVE USER EXPERIENCE AND FUNCTIONALITY OF CATALOG.

Activities for implementing Objective A
• Add online catalog functionality: develop interactive call number locator, implement text messaging of call numbers and API to Google Books.
• Develop a methodology for extracting online catalog metadata.
• Build a prototype discovery layer over catalog metadata featuring a simplified interface, faceted browsing, and Web 2.0 functionality.

OBJECTIVE B
INTEGRATE DIVERSE RESOURCE DISCOVERY TOOLS.

Activities for implementing Objective B
• Use MetaLib’s X-server API to integrate federated search results seamlessly into library applications.
• Harvest metadata from the Library’s digital collections into MetaLib

OBJECTIVE C
IMPROVE FUNCTIONALITY AND USABILITY OF WEBSITE.

Activities for implementing Objective C
• Conduct regular usability testing of library website and applications
• Make interface and functionality modifications as appropriate.
• Ensure that library website and applications meet accessibility standards.
• Develop an information structure that delivers content updates to users via RSS feeds, as well as through the web site.

OBJECTIVE D
CREATE WEB SERVICES FOR CELL PHONES AND HANDHELD DEVICES.

Activities for implementing Objective D
• Implement mobile version of online catalog
• Implement mobile version of appropriate library website content
GOAL II:
DEVELOP CAMPUS-WIDE BROWN DIGITAL REPOSITORY.

OBJECTIVE A
DEVELOP DIGITAL REPOSITORY ARCHITECTURE.

Activities for implementing Objective A
• Develop index and search services, collection configuration and management, and object management and retrieval services.
• Develop initial suite of content models
• Integrate shibboleth authentication into this architecture.
• Work with Computing & Information Services to develop scalable data storage solution.

OBJECTIVE B
DEVELOP USER TOOLS FOR BROWN DIGITAL REPOSITORY.

Activities for implementing Objective B
• Repository Workbench – a suite of faculty submission tools that simplify the process and allow the user to deposit and catalog assets (park and mark), assign rights to individual assets, and design their repository front-end.
• Integrate workbench with the workflow manager (tracking) and XForms MODS editor.

OBJECTIVE C
POPULATE BROWN DIGITAL REPOSITORY.

Activities for implementing Objective C
• Develop methods for soliciting and supporting digital scholarship projects from faculty.
• Create APIs to facilitate content submissions from university departments.

GOAL III:
EXPAND LOCALLY PRODUCED DIGITAL CONTENT.

OBJECTIVE A
DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ARCHIVES.
Activities for implementing Objective A
  • Continue working with Massimo Riva and others to solicit funding and develop new functionality and content for the Garibaldi project.

OBJECTIVE B
COMPLETE NEW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS.

Activities for implementing Objective B
  • Lincoln (broadside, manuscripts, objects, sheet music and graphics)
  • Hurricane Katrina
  • Pat Malone (Technology and the Built Environment image collections)

OBJECTIVE C
DEVELOP INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN MATERIALS.

Activities for implementing Objective C
  • Develop a collection of learning objects that align with an information fluency framework supporting a tiered approach to skill development from novice to advanced skill sets and across disciplines.

GOAL IV:
DEVELOP NEW SERVICES FOR USERS.

OBJECTIVE A
SIMPLIFY DELIVERY OF BROWN-OWNED MATERIAL TO BROWN USERS.

Activities for implementing Objective A
  • Create a web service based on current practice of sending Brown holdings to RAPID.
  • Create a single interface to mask the complexity of article requesting from different locations by users with different privileges.

OBJECTIVE B
DEVELOP A NEW TITLES SERVICE.

Activities for implementing Objective B
  • Replace the quarterly production of new titles list with a new version based on a daily automatic extraction of data from the catalog.
  • Build in the ability to generate customized lists of new materials by subject, language, and format.
  • Build in the ability to track additions via RSS feeds.
GOAL V: DEVELOP NEW SERVICES FOR INTERNAL USERS.

OBJECTIVE A DEVELOP LIBRARY DATA FARM.

Activities for implementing Objective A
- Gather statistics and create crosswalks to facilitate publication, manipulation and analysis of data.
- Implement Data Dashboard strategy and promote creation of data widgets by staff and users

OBJECTIVE B IMPROVE WORKFLOWS WITH PROGRAMMING AND BEST PRACTICES.

Activities for implementing Objective B
- Streamline requesting processes and workflows for internal users; increase transparency of production processes.
- Develop methodology for automated syncing of Serials Solutions and SFX knowledge bases.

GOAL VI: BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS CAMPUS.

OBJECTIVE A IMPROVE DIRECTORY OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS AT BROWN.

Activities for implementing Objective A
- Work with Computing & Information Services and the Office of the Vice President for Research to create access points to citations listed in faculty publications in the DRR-B
- Use the Freecite parser developed with a Mellon Grant to create OpenURLS in the form of COinS as these access points.
- Work with Subject Librarians to promote this service to faculty.

OBJECTIVE B BUILD PROTOTYPE STUDENT E-PORTFOLIO SERVICE.

Activities for implementing Objective B
• Work with Dean of the College to ingest undergraduate writing milestones in Brown Digital Repository.

GOAL VII:
IMPROVE SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE INFRASTRUCTURE.

OBJECTIVE A
AUGMENT AND IMPROVE SERVER SUPPORT.

Activities for implementing Objective A
• Develop in-house systems administration expertise for UNIX / LINUX
• Work collaboratively with Computing & Information Services on configuration, security, and upgrade of servers
• Consolidate servers utilizing improved server technology and VMWARE products

OBJECTIVE B
SUPPORT OPEN PLATFORMS AND ARCHITECTURE.

Activities for implementing Objective B
• We use open-source software and tools whenever possible.
• We release library-developed new code as open-source.
• We use service-oriented-architecture and modular programming.
• We use a collaborative approach to designing and implementing services.

OBJECTIVE C
STANDARDIZE PROGRAMMING PRACTICES.

Activities for implementing Objective C
• All staff use Subversion version control system for all web applications and website development.
• All staff use standard programming frameworks.

OBJECTIVE D
MAINTAIN STAFF PRODUCTIVITY.

Activities for implementing Objective D
• Upgrade staff hardware and software on a regular basis
• As hardware and software evolve, provide regular training for staff.
GOAL VIII:
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STUDY SPACE IN LIBRARIES.

OBJECTIVE A
IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY IN STUDY SPACES.

Activities for implementing Objective A
• Incorporate cutting-edge technology in design for new and renovated spaces.
• Ensure new and renovated study space is conducive to shared learning and fosters group collaboration.